

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Digital Repository

Volume 14

Number 1 *The Iowa Homemaker* vol.14, no.1

Article 10

1934

Modern Furniture Comes Into Own...

Jessica Watkins

Iowa State College

Follow this and additional works at: <http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker>



Part of the [Home Economics Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Watkins, Jessica (1934) "Modern Furniture Comes Into Own...," *The Iowa Homemaker*: Vol. 14 : No. 1 , Article 10.

Available at: <http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker/vol14/iss1/10>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Publications at Iowa State University Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Iowa Homemaker by an authorized editor of Iowa State University Digital Repository. For more information, please contact digirep@iastate.edu.

Modern Furniture Comes Into Own . . .

Jessica Watkins
Interviews Miss Russell

THE modern style of furniture is fundamentally sound, and does have a permanent place in the field of interior decoration, says Miss Mabel Russell, of the applied art staff.

"Just as the World's Fair of 1893 definitely influenced the taste of people toward the Renaissance style for 25 years following, so will the 1933 World's Fair have a strong emphasis on the trend toward modern design in furniture," she believes. "At the present time, many of the best designers in the United States are designing furniture in the modern manner."

While the modern design is comparatively new to the average buyer in this country, it is really not a new thing.

The trend toward modernistic houses and furniture, according to Miss Russell, began in Europe as early as 1899. Designers in Germany, Sweden, Austria and France were all working in modern design before the World War. By 1910 complete interiors were being designed in Europe in the modern manner.

PEOPLE in this country first became aware of the modern trend in design at the time of the International Exposition in Paris in 1925. At this time the United States had nothing in modern design to exhibit.

Miss Russell believes that with the background which it has, modern furniture can not in any way be considered a fad. It is a definite part of the age in which we are now living.

"The fussiness of the furniture of past periods, Miss Russell believes, is passing. This is a different age and it is foolish to try to impose furniture and design of past periods on people living in the present. The thing that designers are trying to do is in keeping with developments in other lines," she says.

The aim in the new furniture is for good design, pleasing proportion, and durability and comfort. It is built on sturdy lines, simple in design; the attention is given to structural lines rather than applied design. The square, the circle and the rectangle are the basis for most of the designs, and horizontal lines are dominant. Metal is used extensively in the construction, and many new and lovely woods have been introduced in furniture making.

"**B**EAUTY of line and color and comfort combined with durability are outstanding features of this furniture," said Miss Russell. "Interiors are often planned as an entire unit rather than as

individual articles, and furniture groupings are often constructed together—such as a sofa and bookcase or desk."

The greatest difficulty in the adoption of this furniture is that it is difficult to use effectively in combination with other styles. Miss Russell believes that expense of entirely refurnishing the house will prevent the use of modern furniture in many cases. Also, modern furniture to be at its best should be in a house of corresponding style, and as yet these have not become common in this country. It has, however, been used in apartments to quite an extent.

Many people are expressing a real interest in furniture in the modern manner. When mass production makes mod-

ern furniture less expensive and more modern houses have been built, the new style in furniture will no doubt be more generally used.

"In selecting modern furniture," Miss Russell says, "we must consider—as in buying any other furniture—beauty of proportion and line, durability, suitability of materials used, color, and its relation to other articles of furniture and to the house in which it is used."

If you want to send a decorated cake by mail, the box should be large enough to allow for cut or crushed paper between the box and the cake, but not too large or the cake will slip around and the frosting will be ruined.



Modern Furniture Is Simple Courtesy Du Pont Magazine